nature at railway stations lot of diseases spread among public, if so, how Government would tackle this issue in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The track and platforms at all the railway stations arc not unclean. While the stations arc cleaned on regular basis, cases of unsatisfactory cleanliness at some stations have come to notice. Regular checks regarding cleanliness at platforms and tracks are conducted by the officers/supervisors and corrective action is taken as deemed fit. A number of initiatives have been taken for improving sanitation which include introduction of 'Pay as Use' scheme of toilets, emphasis on mechanised cleaning process, provision of washable aprons, additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, etc. Moreover, cleanliness drives and surprise checks arc conducted from time to time. Frequent announcements are made to seek the co-operation of the travelling public in keeping the station premises and tracks clean. A Budget Allocation of Rs. 200 crores has been made for passenger amenities for the year 2000-2001, which is an increase of 53.85% over the previous year. A sizeable portion of this allocation would be used for amenities like washable aprons, improved platform surfaces, provision of toilet facilities, which help maintain cleanliness at stations.

(d) There is no such report with the Railway administration.

Pendency of Railway Projects due to Financial Crisis

@2297. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the news-item "Dhanabhav ke karan atki chhch sau crore ke rail pariyojna", published in Punjab Kesri dated 25th July, 2000;

(b) what measures Government propose to take to check such circumstances in future; and

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@ Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) what measure Government are taking to undertake development works on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There is no article in the Punjab Kesri dated 25.07.2000 captioned "Dhanabhav ke karan atki chheh sau crore ke rail pariyojna".

(c) Railways are making efforts to complete all ongoing Railway projects. The progress of Railway projects is reviewed at the highest level and to ensure their completion as per targets and commensurate with the availability of funds.

The problem of shortage of funds is compounded by the existence of a huge shelf of projects, particularly under New Lines and Gauge Conversions.

In order to increase the availability of funds for Railway projects, more money has been sought and obtained as Budgetary Support in the current financial year. In addition, non-conventional sources of revenue like commercial utilisation of land and air space, leasing of Railways' right of way for laying optic fibre cables etc., are also being harnessed.

Introduction of New Trains

2298. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased state:

(a) the details of the new trains introduced in 2000;

(b) the details of trains in which the number of coaches has been increased; and

(c) the purpose of increasing wagons^coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) To increase the carrying capacity of the trains.